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Damage to Western Ghats will lead to natural disaster: Poojary

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Former Union minister B. Janardhan Poojary - File photo

MANGALURU: Former union minister B Janardhana Poojary warned that Dakshina Kannada district also may witness Chennai like natural calamity in future if Western Ghats is damaged through Yettinahole project.

Poojary told reporters on Saturday that natural calamities like Chennai flood are man-made creation. "We should not play with nature just for our greed for money. Filling of lakes and rivers to build commercial complexes and apartments will attract natural disasters. A nexus of politicians, builders and officials are behind filling of lakes and river beds for their monetary gains," he said opposing chief minister Siddaramaiah's plans of implementing Yettinahole project with the help of Opposition.

"Siddaramaiah has asserted that the government will implement Yettinahole project. He has sought the cooperation of BJP leaders too. Opposition BJP leader in the Legislative Council KS Eshwarappa has extended his support to the project and spoke in favour of it. The government is all set to implement the project joining hands with the Opposition. BJP leaders are exhibiting double standards with regard to Yettinahole project," Poojary charged.

Lashing at Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, who has been fighting against Yettinahole project in the district, Poojary said, "let the MP take his fight against Yettinahole project to Delhi and at the National Green Tribunal."

Through Yettinahole project, the government is diverting the Nethravathi river. Karnataka should learn lessons from Chennai flood disaster, which was created due to the mistake on part of Tamil Nadu government. Flood situation was created as several lakes and rivers were filled to construct commercial and residential buildings, he added.